



CALPEEK

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20th S.D. SPECIAL: ELECTION SET APRIL 7th.

This special election primary to replace former State Sen. Alan Robbins(D) is just about in the history books. The primary is Apr. 7. Most insiders expect Senate Pres. David Roberti(D) to lead the field of 10 when the votes are counted, but what is unclear is whether Roberti's 9 challengers can pull enough votes to force a June 2nd runoff...

...Roberti's campaign has IDed thousands of Demo voters in this San Fernando Valley district who lean toward the veteran lawmaker and it is expected that his campaign will mount a large GOTV effort to either make sure these voters cast ABSENTEE ballots or turn out on election day. Privately, the campaign has its collective fingers crossed that it might be able to win this election without a runoff. But the public SPIN is that a runoff looks likely...

...Whatever the case, Roberti will have to win this election without the backing of the L.A. Daily News, which has endorsed GOP candidate David Honda, a contractor who is president of the Valley's United CofC. Insiders think Honda is the best and brightest of the 3 GOP candidates in this field. Honda's main GOP competition comes from PRO-Choice activist Carol Rowen, who hopes to win a runoff spot with help from cross-over Demos who don't agree with Roberti's PRO-Life views. As far as CALPEEK can determine, there is only one big name Demo who is actively backing Rowen: Marlene Bane, wife of Demo Assemblyman Tom Bane...

...FYI: the vast majority of direct mail is coming from Roberti's campaign, but CALPEEK sources have spotted a mailer from a group called "Californians Against Corruption," HQed in Signal Hill. It asks voters to support either Ted Dan August(D), John Vernon(Libertarian) or Delores White(R).

Sources in the Roberti camp think this mailer was funded by a group with a PRO-GUN agenda. For those who have forgotten, Roberti was one of the authors of a bill to ban ASSAULT WEAPONS. Stay tuned...

AG DAN LUNGREN UPS HIS POLITICAL PROFILE BY GOING AFTER SUPT. HONIG AND BOE'S BENNETT..

Editor's note: CA Atty. Gen. Dan Lungren is making headlines these days, but some CALPEEK sources see RISKS for this conservative hardliner, especially if the case against CA Schools Supt. Bill Honig goes in Honig's favor. Here is CALPEEK's report...

...Many, but not all CALPEEK sources agree with the AG's decision regarding Bd. of Equalization member William Bennett, who pled NO CONTEST to a single misdemeanor count that he filed false expense reports. Even Sacto DA Steve White, a Demo who used to work for AG John Van de Kamp, agreed with Lungren's opinion that Bennett MUST step down from office...

...ON THE OTHER HAND, the recent indictment on criminal conflict of interest charges against Honig has set off a firestorm of controversy. Some of Honig's strongest supporters see the indictment as a "right wing plot" to get the educator. Interestingly, the Wilson Administration is distancing itself from this DOJ case...

...The felony charges stem from the awarding of contracts to QEP, an educational program run by Honig's wife, Nancy...

...Those who aren't as passionate and who may not always agree with Honig, say nevertheless that Honig's honesty and integrity are above reproach. AND unlike lawmakers who were convicted in the FBI sting, Honig insists there was no personal gain — in

{Continued Next Page}

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other words, NO greed factor. Still, even some Honig loyalist say his handling of the QEP situation was "stupid," but insist it was not CRIMINAL. As one CALPEEK source said, "It's like the House check bouncing brouhaha. No laws were broken, but it looks bad."...

...Lungren, for his part, insists he has a solid case. Regardless, CALPEEK sources see BIG problems for Lungren should Honig be found not guilty. No, don't look for a RECALL. Not practical. Instead, Demos are already plotting strategy to take Lungren out in 1994 with a well-orchestrated and well-funded campaign. What Demos are looking? S.F. DA Arlo Smith wants another shot at Lungren, but L.A. City Atty. Jim Hahn may also run...

...FYI: Best bet to replace BOE member Bennett: how about GOP Assemblywoman Bev Hansen of Sonoma. Stay tuned...

HOW WILL DEMO DELEGATES RESPOND WHEN JERRY BROWN ADDRESSES THE CDP CONVENTION IN L.A.?
The CA Demo Party's annual convention at the Bonaventure Hotel in downtown L.A. Apr. 10-12 is seen by many insiders as the kick-off for an intensified 7-week battle among Demos for two U.S. Senate seats and for the presidential nomination. In addition to NY Gov. Mario Cuomo, The Rev. Jesse Jackson and DNC Chair Ron Brown, all of the Demos running for CA's two U.S. Senate seats will be present. Jerry Brown will be there too, but at this point there's no word from Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton. CDP sources are hopeful he'll attend...

...For Brown, it will be a big homecoming. But just how CDP delegates greet him still seems unclear: cheers or boos? As CALPEEK readers may recall, Brown resigned as CDP chair in March of 1991 under a cloud and under some pressure --- all as a result of the 1990 elections, where Demo Dianne Feinstein and AG candidate Arlo Smith lost to GOPers Pete Wilson and Dan Lungren. Many Demos blamed the losses on Brown...

...But these charges are minor compared to some of the negative stories about Brown when he was governor, especially in the period just after his second unsuccessful presidential race, in the early 1980s...

...CALPEEK reviewed one of the better known

scandals in a back issue of CA Journal. A Sept. 1981 story is titled, "How Operation Outreach Opened Brown's Computergate." The allegation (no conviction) is that Brown's office used State funds to compile a list of supporters for future campaigns. It was the L.A. Times uncovered COMPUTERGATE in a series of investigative reports...

...Another damaging scandal appeared in a series of articles in the L.A. Daily News, starting in July of 1982. The stories centered around the appointment of L.A. Muni Court Judge Michael Luros. According to the articles, several months after his appointment by Brown, Luros's father, Milton, tossed a June 28 fundraising reception at his home to honor Brown. The only problem was that Milton Luros used to be a major figure in the PORNO industry, according to law enforcement sources. Brown returned most of the money from the Luros family, but that didn't stop Pete Wilson from using the Luros appointment in an attack radio ad against Brown during their 1982 battle for the U.S. Senate. An Oct. 22 story in the Daily News described Wilson's ad as essentially accusing Brown of selling a judgeship to Luros...

...FYI: the latest CA Poll by pollster Mervin Field has Brown leading Clinton here in Calif. by a 47% to 46% margin, with 7% undecided. Stay tuned...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: ANOTHER HEALTH PLAN.
Even though the deadline for submitting petitions is April 17 (if a committee wants to qualify for the November 1992 ballot), one more measure dealing with health care has been given the OK to collect signatures. The official title is "HEALTH CARE REFERRALS, SERVICES, COSTS." The proponent is Stanley Kyker of the CA Restaurant Assn. (916)447-5793. CRA must collect 374,974 by the April 17 deadline --- or it could continue collecting until the official 150 day period has ended on Aug. 24, in which case CRA would probably be looking at a June 1994 campaign. The key element in the CRA plan is to prevent doctors from referring patients to labs or testings facilities owned by the referring doctor or his/her family. The initiative also sets up an Office of Medical Fraud Investigations within the AG's office. Stay tuned...

U.S. SENATE UPDATE: NEW POLLING DATA OUT.

Editor's note: The CA Poll is out with some new data for the two U.S. Senate contests. Sample size 1,137, Mar. 18-21 -- so the stuff about the House check bouncing scandal was known when this survey was taken. Here's our analysis...

6-year Seat

...The data is good news for GOPer Bruce Herschensohn and perhaps troubling news for U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell, with 7 weeks to go. Herschensohn has a 28% to 25% lead over the Palo Alto congressman, but Palm Springs Mayor Sonny Bono grabs 19%, and 28% are undecided. So it's like CALPEEK said: Bono won't win, but he's a FACTOR - and he hurts Campbell more than BH. On the Demo side, no major changes. Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy holds 41%, compared to U.S. Reps. Barbara Boxer at 24% and Mel Levine at 7%. About 23% of those questioned knew that Boxer had bounced checks. And even though he didn't, 3% thought Levine bounced some...

2-year Seat

...There are NO major changes here on the GOP side. Appointed U.S. Sen. John Seymour holds 37%, while U.S. Rep. Bill Dannemeyer has 17% and just 9% for Bill Allen. 37% are undecided. Allen continues to drain conservative support from Dannemeyer. On the Demo side, the entry of Joe Alioto Jr. with 6% has hurt Controller Gray Davis, who dropped from 33% to 26%. Dianne Feinstein with 55% is still the frontrunner. DiFi's spin that a 2nd man in the race would hurt Davis seems to be true...

- LEVINE ON THE TUBE - The "Stealth" candidate is no more. Levine is spending \$1.5 million over the next 3 weeks with 8 different 30-second spots produced by Berman & D'Agostino Campaigns. The buy is Statewide and there's NO cable TV in this first wave. The ads CALPEEK has seen are fair-to-good. The most effective ad is called "Bouncing," with ML looking into the camera and saying he never bounced a check at the House bank. Boxer's campaign staff is furious because it's a shot aimed right at her, although her name is never mentioned. It doesn't matter, because the news media is helping Levine by continually mentioning Boxer and her 143 bad checks...

- LEVINE IN TROUBLE??? - Meanwhile, the Boxer campaign team wasted little time in faxing an April 1 story in the San Jose Mercury News about a Levine problem. The story says that in 1980, Levine's wife was dismissed from a 2-month-old PUC job when a State board probing the appointment found her hire to be a result of "improper influence." Levine was in the CA Assembly at the time and sat on the Public Utilities Committee, which oversaw the PUC budget. Levine's campaign denies any impropriety, but score one for Boxer. Stay tuned...

LOCAL ELECTIONS '92: CITY-COUNTY ROUNDUP.

Editor's note: Here is a brief roundup of CITY-COUNTY elections taking place April 14 and June 2...

- BALDWIN PARK POKER CLUB - Sources in this eastern L.A. County city believe there are just too many unanswered questions about this proposal which would permit the city to legalize a POKER CLUB. True, the City of Baldwin Park is strapped for funds, but there is widespread opposition to this plan, whose chief backer, Councilman Herschel Keyser, was recently busted for DUI. He may have a tough time winning reelection April 14. If you're wondering about George Hardie, operator of the Bicycle Club, he tells CALPEEK he'll probably oppose Measure A...

- TERM LIMITS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY - A measure to limit county supervisors to two, 4-year terms, HAS qualified for the June 2 ballot. The committee backing term limits is led by the same person who waged a winning campaign to limit terms in the City of San Jose, Murphy Sabatino. Santa Clara Co. supes who SUPPORT this measure include Dianne McKenna and Ron Gonzales, while Zoe Lofgren, Rod Diridon and Michael Honda are OPPOSED...

- WEST HOLLYWOOD - With another week to go in the April 14 council election, incumbents Paul Koretz and Abbe Land have only two credible challengers, Robert Pierson and Rochelle Sommers Smith. Smith is a former city commissioner (appointed, then fired by Land), while Pierson directs urban studies at USC. This race could have been very interesting, but a 5th candidate, city commissioner John Altschul, dropped out.

{Continued Next Page}

Money problems. Had he stayed in, Koretz might have had problems, because Councilman John Heilman was supporting Altschul. Land could have some problems with the city's gay activists, but both Land and Koretz are considered fairly safe, unless a massive anti-incumbency tide sweeps West Hollywood. FYI: an initiative to dump the Sheriff in favor of a city-run PD failed to qualify for the ballot. The measure was backed by many of the city's gay activists...

- L.A. COUNTY SUPES - Is L.A. Co. Sup. Deane Dana in trouble? If you believe a new poll released by Dana's key opponent, Rolling Hills Councilwoman Gordana Swanson, then maybe he IS. The poll shows that if the election were held NOW, only 11% would vote for Dana, while 43% said they would vote for someone else. 43% are undecided. The poll was conducted by Opinion Research in Long Beach, sample size 600 registered voters in the 4th district...

...FYI: Kerman Maddox is OUT as State Sen. Diane Watson's daily mgr. NEW mgr. is Nick McClure. Watson is running for the seat of retiring Sup. Kenneth Hahn. Watson was recently endorsed by the L.A. Co. Democratic Central Cmt. over her chief rival, former Congresswoman Yvonne Burke. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '92: SOME HOT U.S. HOUSE RACES.
Editor's note: Here's an update on two of the more interesting GOP U.S. House primary races where the MONEY is flowing...

- 22nd C.D. - This Santa Barbara Co. district is witnessing one of the more interesting and recession-busting campaigns of all times. Incumbent U.S. Rep. Robert Lagomarsino(R) faces a very stiff fight from wealthy businessman Michael Huffington. And make no mistake, it is Huffington's wealth (\$390 million) that makes him a credible candidate against the well-known Lagomarsino. Yes, Huffington is already on TV and the post office is getting a workout too. Huffington has hired Huckaby, Rodriguez & Gilliard as consultants and former Orange Co. Sup. Bruce Nestande is handling daily mgt. Bob Moore out of Oregon did some of the early polling. What's interesting is that while Lagomarsino has been endorsed by most all GOP congressmembers, Huffington has been chipping away at Lagomarsino's local base. Marian Koonce, a long time Lagomarsino supporter, has jumped to

Huffington's team. She's a key player in Santa Barbara GOP politics. Will the check bouncing scandal hit Lagomarsino? YES. He bounced 3, after unconditionally announcing that he had never bounced any. Even though Lagomarsino is the incumbent, CALPEEK now rates this race a toss up because of Huffington's money and aggressive campaign...

- 24th C.D. - Just south of the 22nd, this Ventura Co.-L.A. Co. district is the new home of Demo U.S. Rep. Tony Beilenson. Beilenson has NO primary challenger (L.A. Councilwoman Joy Picus is probably kicking herself now that it has been disclosed that Beilenson bounced 5 checks). The 24th has even Demo & GOP registration — 45% each, which makes it lean Republican...

...The GOP frontrunner is probably Assemblyman Tom McClintock of Camarillo, although businessmen Sang Korman and Jim Solomon, who have both run for congress before, might dispute that. The other serious GOP candidate in this race is attorney Nick Hariton of Sherman Oaks. All four candidates have solid funding and all four have hired savvy campaign teams. McClintock has hired Steve Presson; Korman has Huckaby, Rodriguez & Gilliard; Hariton has consultant Harvey Englander; and Solomon has hired Beilenson's former consultants, Roz Segal and Joy Ellis. For Korman, this is really the first time he's had a major GOP consulting firm in charge of his campaign and this could make a big difference...

...McClintock and Korman share many conservative credentials, while Solomon and Hariton would probably be described as moderates, although not on all issues. Of the four Republicans, Solomon probably has the toughest road ahead because like Beilenson, he's a Beverly Hills transplant. At this point CALPEEK rates McClintock as a very slight favorite, with Korman, Hariton and Solomon close behind...

- Correction from last week in the 60th A.D. State Sen. Frank Hill(R-Whittier) has endorsed Assemblyman Paul Horcher(R-Diamond Bar) for reelection. The rest of the story stands. Stay tuned...

